

Improving Quality of Care through Traceability: How ISBT 128 Facilitates the inclusion of MPHO Identifiers in Patient Electronic Health Records

Organizations responsible for the clinical application of medical products of human origin (MPHO: includes blood, cells, tissues, organs) are recognizing the need to complete the traceability path by capturing MPHO identifiers into a patient's electronic health record (EHR). In today's practice this information is generally only held in hospital laboratory computer systems or manual records. This makes follow-up and lookback difficult, especially if the patient is no longer attending the hospital.

In order to support the goal of Health Authorities in many countries for the meaningful use of interoperable electronic health records, ICCBBA has developed a MPHO Unique Identifier for use in electronic messages and databases. This development facilitates the recording of critical traceability information on MPHO in a searchable field in the patient's EHR. Users will notice a simplification of the way in which information about an MPHO can be transferred and held. The identifier has been specifically designed with the intent of providing an effective and consistent way to store important information about MPHO in an electronic health record.

Utilizing the MPHO Unique Identifier would be consistent with the way in which implantable medical device information is being captured using the Unique Device Identification System as described by the International Medical Device Regulators Forum and under implementation in many countries.

The MPHO Unique Identifier is a single data item in a consistent format for all MPHO labeled using ISBT 128. It incorporates the donation identification number, product description code, and division number, all of which can be easily extracted. This mechanism can be seen as the final step in the traceability pathway and one that would make future lookback much more efficient.

ICCBBA is also developing a standardized XML element to carry information about MPHO. This is the first step in delivering a method to support the electronic transfer of information between MPHO providers and clinical users.

Suppliers of electronic health record systems are encouraged to move forward with incorporating ISBT 128 MPHO Unique Identifiers in their software products. Over 70 million MPHO are identified by ISBT 128 each year. Supporting these new developments would have an immediate beneficial impact on traceability and facilitate the electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care for patients around the world.

For more information on the MPHO Unique Identifier and its Unique Resource Identifier (URI) please refer to RT042 *ISBT 128 Data References for use in Electronic Messages*, which is publically available and can be found on the ICCBBA website at www.iccbba.org.

ICCBBA is committed to working with EHR developers to incorporate the MPHO Unique Identifier into their software. Contact us at iccbba@iccbba.org or via telephone at +1 909 793 6516 for assistance.